

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed December 14, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1, 5 – 17 and 21 - 32 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17, 21, 24, 25, 27, 30 and 31, and has canceled claims 2 – 4 and 18 - 20 without waiver, disclaimer or prejudice. Applicant has canceled claims 2 – 4 and 18 - 20 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 20, 24, 25, 27 and 28 would be allowable if re-written in independent form, and that claim 32 also would be allowable if the specified objections were overcome. As set forth above, Applicant has re-written claim 1 to include limitations previously recited in claim 4, has re-written claim 17 to include limitations previously recited in claim 20, and has re-written claims 8, 9, 11, 16, 21, 24 and 27 to be in independent form. Since all remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from a claim that has been indicated as allowable if re-written, Applicant respectfully asserts that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

In the Specification

The Office Action indicates that the specification is objected to because of various informalities. As set forth above, Applicant has amended the specification and respectfully asserts that the objections have been accommodated.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

The Office Action indicates that claims 30 – 32 are objected to under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. As set forth above, Applicant has amended claims 30 and 31 and respectfully asserts that the rejection has been accommodated.

Rejection under 35 USC § 103

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 3, 7, 13 – 14, 17 – 19, 23 and 29 - 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Yang* in view of *Chen*. With respect to claims 2, 3, 18 and 19, Applicant has canceled these claims and respectfully asserts that the rejection as to these claims has been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

In particular, Applicant has re-written claim 1 to include limitations previously recited in claim 4, has re-written claim 17 to include limitations previously recited in claim 20, and has re-written claims 8, 9, 11, 16, 21, 24 and 27 to be in independent form, the allowability of each of which is set forth in the Office Action. Since all remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from a claim that has been indicated as being allowable, Applicant respectfully asserts that all pending rejections have been rendered moot, and that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Cited Art of Record

The cited art of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel R. McClure, Reg. No. 38,962

THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500